

May 7

Ecclesiasticus

19:24

“Better Than”

He that hath small
understanding and
feareth God, is
better than one that
hath much wisdom,
and transgresseth the
law of the most High.

A great deal is said,
throughout Scripture,
regarding the
significance of
understanding and
wisdom, but can less
ever be best?

Can a person who has
just a little
understanding but fears
the Lord (highly reveres

the Lord) really be better
than someone who
has a lot of wisdom but
breaks God's law?

The world promotes the
most attractive, the most
financially well-off, and
those having the highest
levels of whatever it
wants to call important
for the particular time or
place in history.

That's the way of the world. It is not, however, the way of the most High.

Especially within the last few centuries or so, the world seldom, if ever, recognizes those who set obedience to God as priority over everything else. Such people are not

considered “successful”,
let alone “better than”,
or better off than others.

One thing I noticed is
that the verse uses the
word “wisdom”. It seems
to me, that legitimate
wisdom, by its very
nature, would dictate not
transgressing the law of
the most High. True
wisdom, that is, godly

wisdom, would lead one
to revere Creator over all
this world has to offer.

Perhaps in translation, a
more clarifying word
choice would have been
“knowledge”, learning”,
or something pertaining
to secular education.

Even so, because the
passage is part of a non-

canonical book, (though it is in the 1611 King James Version) some may disregard the passage altogether. Others may say, “this is just one writers’ individual assertion”. But is there any accuracy to the statement? Let’s think.

If you were an employer,
would you rather have
an employee who was
highly educated but
refused to do what was
good and right. Or
rather, would you prefer
an employee with little
education, but would
willingly do the right
things?

The passage is the antithesis of people-pleasing. Contrarily, it is a reminder concerning godly values and priorities, namely that obedience to God is better than what may *seem* important by the world's standards.